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Latin America Report

(FOUO 9/81)



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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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ENERGY ECONOMICS

CUBA

SOLAR ENERGY DEPARTMENT REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS, PROSPECTS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Feb 81 pp 90-91

[Article by Boreal Leon Perez: "The Use of Solar Energy in Cuba"]

[Text] In recent decades, a universal awareness has been developing about the future of the traditional sources of energy and nowadays it is even predicted that their depletion is imminent.

Energy has become the primary strategic factor in the life of any nation and because of that awareness the question of new sources of energy is beginning to be considered in the context of the energy problem.

What is meant by new forms of energy?

That term tends to regroup a combination of techniques, different from one another but all directed toward the exploitation of well-known forms of energy and generally related to the energy emitted by the sun through relatively new methods and procedures.

Some of these methods are completely new, as is the case of photocells, which utilize a physical phenomenon--the photovoltaic effect--not exploited until now and which requires new techniques and materials. Other methods, such as wind machines have a long history because man has been utilizing the wind to perform work for many hundreds of years. The new forms of energy get their name above all because of man's new attitude toward them and because of the modern methods being developed to utilize them.

Nevertheless, these new disciplines have their common denominator, a unifying element, and are defined by means of a basic concept, which is solar energy.

Until the victory of our revolution, the development of research on the utilization of natural resources in general was literally nil; much less was the utilization of solar energy, in particular. The use of solar radiation was limited either to heating with solar collectors of very low efficiency installed in a few bourgeois homes or to pumping water through the use of some windmills in the rural areas.

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The development of a national awareness for the defense of and the beneficial exploitation of our resources was born with the revolution.

In January 1976, through the direct action of the member of the Politburo of our party Central Committee, Comrade Pedro Miret, the Solar Energy Department attached to the Basic Technical Research Institute of the Cuban Academy of Science was founded.

The lines of research now being conducted in the department are precisely those capable of responding to our specific primary needs, taking into account the physical-geographic characteristics of our country.

Cuba is situated in the tropical zone of the earth very close to the Tropic of Cancer. The Cuban Archipelago is exposed to an average of 7.1 hours of sunlight per day. The average overall solar radiation is approximately 400 calories per square centimeter per day. In a single day, approximately 100 kWh of energy from the sun reach our country, which is equivalent to the production of two hundred 500-kw electric power plants. Cuba is within a belt that receives a very high annual solar radiation (5 kWh per square meter). The solar radiation that falls on our country has special characteristics, ranging from a little more than 4 kWh per square meter on the Isle of Youth to a little more than 5 kWh per square meter in the eastern provinces.

Other indirect consequences of solar radiation are the system of winds that affect our country. The probability that there are zones in Cuba with wind-power conditions from minimum to favorable can be distributed with considerable uniformity across almost the whole archipelago.

Because of its insular nature, our country may have zones difficult of access from the energy point of view. Wind power can come to the aid of these regions. There is an infinity of keys and small islets around our main island which could be exploited if their windpower conditions permitted the installation of wind generators. In this way, the socially usable surface of our country could be significantly increased.

The heating of water is a basic line of development in which notable progress has been achieved. A solar water heating system consists, first of all, of a flat solar collector or thermally insulated box with a glass cover inside of which is a system of metallic conductors the blackened and heated surface of which transmits the energy to the water which circulates inside it; that heated water emerges from the collector into a storage or thermal tank and from there to utilization. The tank collector system is fed by a cold water source. The method of connection between the collector system is fed by a cold water source. The method of connection between the collector and the thermal tank is such that a natural circulation of the liquid can be maintained for the constant heating of the liquid. In some cases, this circulation can be established by means of a pump.

In the past few years, various research efforts on solar heaters have been conducted in our department. They have led to perfecting the design and the efficiency of these devices as well as to the development of methods of evaluation

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adapted to our specific conditions. We have also developed designs of flat collectors for temperatures above 70 degrees for various industrial uses.

A very interesting collector design being developed in the department is one called the cane shower. That heater has the characteristic of serving as a storage tank and collector at the same time due to the large diameter of its conduits. It makes it possible to quickly heat a large volume of water at low temperature for use during the workday. The design is appropriate for agricultural camps where large quantities of water are needed at the end of the day for the workers' washing needs. The design is also recommended for schools in the country and in Pioneer camps.

The socioeconomic advantages of the solar water heater are not debated nowadays and it is one of the solar applications currently most widespread in the world.

Another line developed by our department is that connected with the design of devices with different degrees of concentration of solar light by means of which it is possible to reach temperatures from 120 to over 1,000 degrees Centigrade.

The prototype of a solar hothouse for cooking and heating food has been built. A system of four flat mirrors concentrates the solar light inside it, reaching temperatures of up to 120 degrees. With a 1-hour exposure, it is possible to cook eggs or heat canned goods. The design of a portable parabolic solar cooker for tourist use has been developed. It has a power of 1.20 kw and supplies temperatures from 100 up to 250 degrees Centigrade at its focal point.

The purification of substances, particularly obtaining drinking water by means of solar energy, represents a no less important line of research of our department. The specific conditions that characterize our country within the geography of the region manifest the essential need to utilize its hydrological resources to the maximum.

Our country is comprised of an archipelago of about 1,600 keys and islets with more than 6,000 kilometers of coastlines, with not very extensive river watersheds and an irregular precipitation system which compels us to give thought to increasing our fresh water sources. Solar energy can help us through the possibilities presented by the solar desalination or distillery systems, with obvious economic and ecological advantages. The aspects of solar desalination pursued in our group cover, among others, the study of the form and nature of absorbing dishes for solar radiation with a view to optimizing the collection and transfer of its energy under favorable economic conditions; the study of the influence exercised by the configuration of the condensing cover in the productivity of the system, as well as the development of new types of solar desalination devices.

Another problem considered by the Solar Energy Department concerns the development of systems capable of generating low temperatures by means of solar radiation. Everyone knows the need the national economy has for these systems to resolve the requirements for low temperatures in the most diverse types: for the refrigeration of storage places for farm products; the climate control of homes, as well as the creation of better working conditions for our workers. It has been scientifically demonstrated that there is an increase in labor productivity when temperature conditions are improved in the manufacturing centers because of an

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increase in the physical and mental capacity of the worker, of his well-being during the workday. On the other hand, the energy savings represented by substitution of the climate-control, air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment powered by fossil fuel can represent almost 12 percent of all the energy produced in the country.

The solar drying of farm products is one form of research being fully developed, and is one that is of capital importance to our economy. The solar dryers are devices designed essentially in the form of an air heater to which is attached a drying chamber in which the products to be processed are placed. An experimental solar dryer that works on the same principle has been designed in our department. The accompanying photograph shows the north face of the drying chamber on the south side of which is attached the air heating system. Circulation of air inside the dryer can be regulated by the variable opening outlet at the top.

The direct conversion of solar radiation into electricity has an assured future in solar energy. The powering electronic devices such as receiving equipment is being fully developed nowadays. Our department is engaged in getting scientific personnel who will concern themselves with developing this important source in the next few years, one that has innumerable applications in maritime beacon systems or for powering refrigerating devices and others.

At the same time, our department collaborates with and advises various national institutions and organizations such as the National Tourist Institute (INTUR), the Steelworking Industry (SIME), the Ministry of Construction (MICONS), the Ministry of Education (MINED), the Cuban Hydrographic Institute (ICH), the Ministry of Transportation (MINTRANS) and others. This connection makes it possible to put the results of research into practice for its socioeconomic assimilation

The national solar energy seminars have also been systematized; this activity serves to disseminate and broaden the knowledge of solar energy among an ever larger number of university graduates with the consequent extension of solar know-how and elevation of the research level.

On the basis of these lines of work briefly outlined here our department is projecting itself toward the future with a broad and intensive diversification of the solar problem, in accordance with the recommendations for scientific-technical and economic development presented by our party and government.

According to the directives issued by the leadership of our Academy of Sciences, a stepped-up development of research on the utilization of solar energy is envisaged during the current 5-year period. This involves the creation of a Solar Energy Institute in Santiago de Cuba the basic objectives of which will be the research and development of solar equipment and systems, the production of solar apparatus, the drafting of practical plans of installations, the storage of the necessary scientific-technical information, the training and constant upgrading of cadres, the organization of scientific events, etc. The Solar Energy Institute will pursue lines of research such as the heating of liquids and gases, the desalination of sea and brackish water, thermosolar motors, wind machines, refrigeration and climate-control systems, generation of electricity, the utilization of the thermo-oceanic gradient, biomasses and solar architecture.

This solar energy panorama can give us some idea of the prospects that are opening up in our country for techniques on the utilization of solar energy.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

BLAS ROCA COMMENTS ON FIFTH YEAR OF CONSTITUTION

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 20 Feb 81 pp 60-61

[Article by Blas Roca, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Political Bureau and chairman of the National People's Government Assembly: "The Fifth Year"]

[Excerpt] On 24 February it will be 5 years since the socialist constitution which rules us was proclaimed effective.

Five years is not a long time but in those 5 years a new political-administrative territorial division of the country was instituted. Elections were organized and the organ of people's government were elected: The Municipal, Provincial and National Assemblies. This means that the results of this 5-year period with respect to the application of the constitution in its organizational part has had a 100-percent fulfillment of what was scheduled.

In other aspects, the work of the local bodies of the People's Government and the National Assembly have had positive results, in addition to having provided many lessons. They have improved many services and they have begun to take administrative control of others.

The local bodies of the People's Government still lack much to be able to perform their function of local government and administration in all its scope. They still lack much to be able to use all/local possibilities and resources for increasing production; authority for which is granted to them in the constitution. / [in boldface].

The old tradition of a central government with all authorities and local governments without any still exists in Cuba. This is what must be overcome so that the constitution may rule in all aspects and the local governments may be exercised and respected.

In these 5 years, therefore, it has been demonstrated that the People's Government is the democratic power par excellence, because it is the people themselves who govern. This means that it is not a matter of a democracy only because of its form but because of its force as well as, because of its essence. The form: Universal, direct and secret vote; nomination of candidates by the voters themselves. The construction of socialism is being organized.

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Its essence: It is the government of the people, of the workers, of the peasants, wage earners, soldiers, the young, housewives, the citizens, men and women alike.

In these 5 years everything established in the constitution has been tested and demonstrated, in short, the approval of the Socialist Constitution responds to the institutional needs of our country and the hopes of the people. Now it is necessary that everyone understand the obligation they have to comply with it and apply it.

Elections have been held.

Some delegates, who lost the trust of their electors, have been dismissed and their replacements have been elected.

Laws, decree-laws and other legal norms have been approved.

Executive decisions have been made and have been obeyed.

It is also good to remember that on 17 February it was 5 years since the Council of Ministers adopted the agreement having to do with the proclamation and implementation of the Constitution and the Law of Constitutional Transition, agreement which was certified by the unforgettable Celia Sanchez, recently deceased as a result of a cruel and lengthy illness.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

ROCA COMMENTS ON FIRST 5 YEARS OF SOCIALIST CONSTITUTION

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Feb 81 pp 60-61

[Interview with Blas Roca, member of the party Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, by Susana Tesoro]

[Text] It is difficult at times to retain time in one's memory, but when something has brought back to us work and dedication in addition to time, we remember it as if it had happened hours before, although years may have passed.

"After the committee responsible for preparing the draft constitution met with Fidel and committed itself to having the document by 24 February, the work began," said Blas Roca, president of the National Assembly and member of the party Politburo.

"The first thing, a difficult task, was to consider the hours we had to work every day to complete the draft by the date promised. At the first meeting, the basic materials had been distributed, and the rules of work had been approved. Also, at that meeting four working groups or subcommittees were formed to study the following: general principles and socioeconomic system; rights and duties of the citizen and guarantees of them; top bodies of the national government and of the administration; and local governmental bodies, courts, attorney general's office; electoral system. The style group was also named; it included Juan Marinello, Enrique Hart and Fernando Alvarez Tabio."

The standing working group--as people know--was composed of Blas Roca, chairman of the committee; Armando Torres Santrayll, vice chairman; and Santiago Cuba, secretary.

To return to those days, we would have to look for documents, data, if we wanted to be exact. However, Blas has events at hand without making much of an effort:

"I remember the first factory where the draft was discussed with the workers. It was near Luyano, a metallurgical plant called, I think, Florentino Alejo. The discussion there was lengthy, but good. There was considerable debate there about why it was necessary for racial discrimination and that involving women to be in different places. In fact, they are separate cases, and politically we had to separate them. That's because the precepts of our constitution with respect to discrimination against Blacks were supposed to reflect on the United States because one of the things that characterizes the capitalist system in that country is persecution of Blacks; and our constitution had to be an answer to that; for equality, liberty, and the true human rights are here under socialism, and not in any capitalist country.

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"In this and other discussions in factories, schools and Committees for Defense, there was interest on the part of some citizens in incorporating into the constitution elements that are specific in nature and not suitable to this type of law, but to others. The constitution is created for a long period of time, and it embraces fundamental principles. It is a law that can't be modified every day."

Surprised by the question, he spoke of the value of the constitution:

"It's impossible for a Cuban not to know, but if you want my opinion . . . the constitution governs the life of the state and of society; it governs elections and the operation of the state. The constitution is a pillar of institutionalization because it provides the overall framework of organization of the state, of the socioeconomic foundations of the society. The constitution established a new political/administrative division of territory, which is now in effect. It established a new system of government bodies. The municipal and provincial assemblies were instituted, along with their executive committees and the National Assembly, the Council of State and the Council of Ministers. This is a part of the institutionalization. . . .

"It's extremely satisfying for us to see those first projects completed now. Some laws have been written, too, but it's necessary to draft one that covers the organic part of the bodies of the People's Government. We have to write that law to define more precisely the functions and authority of the local bodies; for there are those who are now debating with these bodies concerning their authority and trying to control them from above, and the local bodies were not created for that. They weren't created for anyone to control them. They were created to govern fully at the local level and to take advantage of all their area's particular characteristics and resources in the development of society and the economy.

"There are places," Blas noted, "that have conditions for the construction of certain recreational facilities, for doing many things in this regard. . . ."

[BOHEMIA] And the resources for these facilities?

[Roca] Sometimes the resources have to be national, for there's no one to undertake a major project with local resources; but there are areas where, for example, there are palms that produce a fibrous tissue that is cut into strips, and they make them into wallets, bags and very lovely things. The important thing is to look around the area and make use of everything.

[BOHEMIA] Returning to the law you spoke of earlier, would it replace existing laws?

[Roca] Possibly, because the governing principles, which is what they're called, are an outline of what the law should be; for the law is more complex and more specific than the principles laid down at the beginning, which now are the guide for the provincial and municipal assemblies.

[Roca] When the bodies of the People's Government were established in Matanzas, there wasn't even a warehouse. They were visiting different places, and they found a warehouse. Then it happened that in a certain place in the city there was no water, and there were no pipes. They also began to search throughout the province, and later there were more than enough pipes. That is the role of these

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local bodies: not to simply sit down and cry. Crying is good, but only to a certain point.

[BOHEMIA] Besides, crying doesn't solve problems.

[Roca] Precisely; those are defects, and they have to be corrected. . . .

Returning to the constitution, he said:

"We now recall, 5 years later, many things that wouldn't fit in your article, and perhaps they wouldn't interest the reader; but there was a group of comrades that worked assiduously on this first constitution, with determination, dedication and fervor. There was nothing heroic about it. The word must be used carefully; and heroism is another matter. It was an interesting job; more than interesting: exciting, I'd say on behalf of all those of us who were involved in it. But the most unforgettable of those moments, in the entire maelstrom of work, was when the draft was delivered to Fidel, who even said, 'It's beautiful, it's lovely.'"

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 20 Feb 81 pp 76-77

[Report of interview with Alexander Lilov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, by Teresa Mederos Diaz of BOHEMIA in Havana; date not given]

[Text] Far away on the geographic plane, very closely linked in the struggle for the common ideal of peace and prosperity of peoples, two countries, Bulgaria and Cuba, were fulfilling different phases with respect to the highest event of their respective communist parties, the guiding force of the socialist society of both nations. While the Second Communist Party of Cuba Congress was approaching its end, over there in the Beloved Balkan country, the Bulgarian people, firm bulwark of Marxist-Leninist ideas and followers of the indomitable Dimitrov, are preparing for the 12th BKP [Bulgarian Communist Party] Congress. Among the greenery of the leafy trees of his residence in the Cuban capital during the second congress, the chief of the Bulgarian delegation, Alexander Lilov, member of the political bureau and secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, received us. There was a brief recess in the Palace of Congresses and time is short. The conversation was begun precisely about our interest in learning the progress of the preparations for the 12th BKP Congress.

Alexander Lilo said that the highest event of the Bulgarian Communists is an activity of vital importance for the people and life of the entire country since it will express the collective feelings when an analysis is made of the road traveled and the line is traced for the next period. "That is the significance of the congress we are preparing and which should play a decisive role in the present phase of the construction of socialism."

The Bulgarian leader said that all work in the nation is subordinated to the preparation for the 12th Congress. "It can be said that the party receives the 12th Congress united and together and around it are the people with their support of the policy of the party and the central committee headed by Comrade Todor Yivkov," said Lilov, adding that there is an upswing in work throughout Bulgaria, socialist emulation is being implemented and the state of mind is one of work, very optimistic, with the certainty that the congress will be a new step forward for the development of the country in all areas.

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He then told us that "the greatest achievement in the period between the 11th Congress and the one for which preparations are being made is the success in the construction of the developed socialist society, which is a historical achievement by our party and our people. We are in the phase of a mature socialism. The most important thing in the economy is the line followed of going from extensive development to intensive development based on the reconstruction and modernization of industry and agriculture, which can be achieved through the proper application of contemporary scientific-technical progress.

"Bulgaria has achieved a strong potential in industry and agriculture. The present task is that of obtaining greater efficiency on the basis of what has been achieved. This means that basic efforts are aimed at the modernization of what has been already built, although of course we shall continue the construction of new industrial plants," said the BKP Political Bureau member.

The work by the Bulgarian people in the construction of the new socialist society is highly effective if we note the fact that from an agrarian country, Bulgaria has today become a state of industrial-agrarian economy where the contribution by industry to national revenues is increasingly higher while that portion contributed by agriculture declines, even when the agricultural sector produced three times more than it did in 1944. In 1975 the contribution by industry was 53 percent, in 1979 it was 60.7 percent, while that of agriculture declined from 18.4 to 13.9 percent. These are eloquent figures illustrating the words of the Bulgarian leader about the high achievements of the economy in recent years.

Comrade Lilov pointed out "that significant changes toward a greater efficiency have been observed in economic development, seeking greater production with greater productivity and cheaper with more quality so that these achievements may allow a greater competition in the foreign market and be sources of welfare for the people."

With respect to the social area, he said that the fundamental achievement is an improvement in living standards of the population, a steadfast political line of the party, which aims its efforts toward the satisfaction of the material and cultural needs of all the people.

On this he said: "We all know that the objective of socialism is the creation of conditions favorable for the creation of the multifaceted man. This is a beautiful objective but in order to attain it the material conditions must be developed."

Efforts in the social sector have been headed, and satisfactory results are being obtained, toward the construction of more and better housing, the availability of more varieties of food, the achievement of a better education and a better public health service. In the period between the two congresses it can be seen that significant advances have been made in all these areas, said the Bulgarian leader. He then said: "We have not obtained everything we hoped but today we have much more than before; what we have today is incomparable with what we had in the capitalist phase; it is also much more than what we had yesterday."

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Our question now refers to the international situation. On it, Alexander Lilov tells us: "Our party is seriously concerned by the international situation. We consider it alarming. World peace is threatened and we believe that this is the greatest threat since the end of World War II. Imperialism, the forces of reaction, very particularly U.S. imperialism, have made a sharp turn from the policy of detente toward one of confrontation and an increase in tensions to obtain military superiority from positions of strength on the plane of increasing armamentism in its favor."

He says: "To speak in the language of Comrade Fidel Castro in the proposals of the central report, we will say that hurricanes are blowing in present international relations. We cannot say that we are in a cold war period but the policy of imperialism is already headed toward it; the cold winds of the period prior to detente are already blowing. They are dangerous phenomena, we cannot underestimate them and that is why we take all measures in cooperation, particularly with the Soviet Union, to safeguard, resist and continue forward with the policy of detente, which is the one which interests all the people; it is the reasonable alternative of the present world. We declare ourselves firmly for the intensification of the policy of peaceful coexistence."

With firm words, and certain of the strength of the people in the struggle for peace, the high leader of our sister Bulgaria points out that against all threats to peace there are real forces ready to defend the path taken toward detente. These forces are: world socialism headed by the Soviet Union, the world working class, at the front of whom are its vanguard detachments; the recently liberated countries, among whom the Movement of Nonaligned Countries headed by Cuba, which carries out its mandate honorably plays an important role, and the progressive movement, the progressive organizations of the entire world."

After describing the main forces of progress in the present world, the BKP Political Bureau member says that the people of the entire world are increasing their role in the struggle for peace and that the active solidarity among the people in this struggle for peace will increase and become a real and powerful factor against the forces of war. The essential task, he emphasizes, is to trace a platform of struggle for peace, the unity of all factors, all the forces which in the world are joined in brotherhood for these beautiful objectives which unite us.

Lilov declared: "We are optimistic. The role of the USSR, the first socialist country, is the most powerful and real obstacle against the forces of reaction and war, the aggressive militaristic forces. We communists have no reason to underestimate the danger the plans of imperialism represent but we have, on the other hand, every reason for feeling optimistic and sure of victory by the forces of peace and peaceful coexistence."

"That is the way all communist parties act. That is how the PCSU headed by Leonid Brezhnev acts, Brezhnev the inspirer and architect of the policy of detente in the world who has just finished making a worthwhile proposal on the dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf. That is how our communist party acts under the leadership of Comrade Todor Yivkov, who plays a worthy role in the struggle for the creation of a good climate of peace in international relations. That is the

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way the Communist Party of Cuba acts, headed by Comrade Fidel Castro, who has also made great contributions and acquired merits in the struggle for peace and detente in his status as president of the Nonaligned."

Now the conversation turns toward Cuba. The closing moment of the Second Congress approaches. Alexander Lilov says that this has been "an excellent and magnificent congress. The Communist Party of Cuba is determined, as we have always known it to be, as we have always respected and loved it. It is a revolutionary party which does not bow its head before difficulties and threats; it is a party which directs the construction of socialism in the Western Hemisphere and despite the blockade it advances in all areas. There is also a great international recognition of the Communist Party of Cuba and the role it has played by giving help to the countries which struggle for their liberation, for their independence, against foreign intervention, against imperialism. The Communist Party of Cuba maintains its internationalist lines in action."

In his statements on the role of the PCC, the Bulgarian leader adds that it is a party loyal to Marxism-Leninism, enlightenedly faithful, but at the same time with an original and creative viewpoint on the problems of the construction of socialism in Cuba, and it also plays a valuable role in the development of the world revolutionary movement.

He says that he was impressed by the report read by Fidel, a document he described as significant and valuable and which becomes a work platform for the Cuban Communist Party and people. It also has an extraordinary importance outside of Cuba. "I am convinced that the other communist parties and progressive organizations of the entire world, will study that document with interest. That is how we understand it."

In conclusion, Alexander Lilov tells us: "We take this opportunity, in the name of the Bulgarian Communist Party, its central committee, in my own and in the name of Comrade Todor Yivkov, through this magazine, to send our most cordial greetings to the Cuban Communists and all the people. We want to express our conviction that the Second Congress will be a great step in the construction of socialism and that now, as in the future, the indomitable Cuba shall continue along the path to the construction of the socialist society, and like today, it will continue to be a determined bulwark of the world socialist system. The Second Congress showed that Cuba is not alone, that with it, with its people, are all the communist parties, all the people, and that it has the friendship, solidarity and loyalty of the Bulgarian Communist Party and people."

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

INDER 20TH ANNIVERSARY CLOSED BY PEDRO MIRET

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Feb 81 p 62

[Dispatch signed by JA]

[Text] The joy of sports, the true expression of physical activity in all its manifestations, was the principal theme of the striking spectacle with which the 20th anniversary of the creation of the INDER [National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation] was celebrated.

The multicolored display provided by the exhibition marching groups composed of children from day care centers, pioneers, students from the City of Havana's Commander Manuel Fajardo Provincial Physical Education School, and students from Higher Institute for Physical Culture gave the event the sparkle the special celebration needed.

Present at the ceremony, which took place in the Sports City stadium, were Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, Pedro Miret Prieto and Julio Camacho Aguilera, all members of the Politburo, as well as comrades Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo; Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers; other members of the Central Committee; and Carlos Galvan Vila, president of the parent sports organization.

The program opened with the passing in review of flags, our national banner being carried by the noted sprinter from Cienfuegos, Silvio Leonard. There then appeared a large group of Cuban athletes who participated in the Olympic Games in Moscow, who were followed by young athletes from the country's 14 provinces and the special municipality of the Isle of Youth.

A particularly emotional moment occurred when the names of martyrs in sports were read off, symbolized by the names of Julio Antonio Melia, Giraldo Cordova Cardin, Jose Ramon Rodriguez, Manuel Fajardo and the comrades in the fencing group who died in the criminal sabotage incident in Barbados.

As a part of the ceremony, several comrades representing the founders of the INDER received certificates of recognition, and reference was made to such outstanding trainers and athletes as Alcides Sagarra, Servio Borges, Maria Caridad Colon and Teofilo Stevenson.

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In his closing speech, Pedro Miret gave a detailed account of what sports have meant during these 20 years of fruitful labor, in which Cuban athletes succeeded in carrying the national flag to high levels. He also pointed out the important role to be played by all members of the sports family at this time, whereby mass participation must be the slogan, so that sports are in fact accessible by right to everyone.

We have saved the closing lines to indicate that the Cuban athletes also offered deserved recognition of the inspiration they have received from the presence of Fidel throughout these years of daily work. The award for our commander in chief was presented by Comrade Carlos Galvan Vila to Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez.

There is not the slightest doubt that for all those present the event consisted of a succession of scenes reflecting the extraordinary contribution made by Cuban athletes during these two decades. We believe, too, that it was a special moment for confirming that what has been accomplished is only a point of departure in this enormous task of the Revolution.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

SDPE, INTERSECTORAL RELATIONS DISCUSSED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6 Mar 81 pp 28-31

[Article by Raul Lazo; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] In his main report to the Second Party Congress on the achievements of the past 5 years, Fidel said that this period has been one of unquestionable progress in the gradual application of the Economic Management and Planning System (SDPE). Referring to the objectives and attitudes involved in this program for the present 5-year period, he stressed that we will work to develop and perfect all the mechanisms of the system and to look constantly for ways to strengthen and improve what we are doing /so that we can obtain steady increases in the efficiency of the operations of enterprises and the economy in general./

Without a doubt, the strengthening and development of national economic planning is to play an important role within the objectives of the SDPE. This point was expressly made in the "Draft of Economic and Social Guidelines for the 1981-1985 5-year Period."

But the improvement and development of short-, medium- and long-term planning would be impossible to achieve without also improving and developing the instruments and tools of planning, particularly the System of National Economic Reports.

The harmonious, conscientious and planned development of the socialist economy is based on the establishment of certain relations and proportions, both quantitative and qualitative. Among other relations, we might mention those which stem from technical-material production and their economic expression, those which exist between productivity and the average wage, and the relations and proportions which depend on the uses to be made of the products in question and their utilization as investments, productive and non-productive consumption, exports, etc.

The System of National Economic Reports should cover these and many other relations and proportions of the socialist reproduction process, thus becoming a pivotal force within the Economic Management and Planning System. In short, the reports are one of the essential mainstays in the efforts to achieve socio-economic planning on a much more objective basis, with a gradual optimization of all resources utilized in the respective relations and proportions.

But since we have emphasized the links between planning, the reports system and proportionality, we feel it is appropriate to present the definition of the latter

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provided by political economics. Proportionality includes the harmonious development of qualitative and quantitative relations within and among the sectors and branches of the economy, and among certain economic categories. Planning and proportionality are a dialectic unit. "The constant and conscientious maintenance of proportionality," said Lenin, "should be the essence, the real significance, of planning."

In a certain sense, planning includes the essence of proportionality itself, although it is not the only objective or means, because the work quantities and production resources in a society should be distributed according to the requirements and needs of production: /The masses of products corresponding to the various needs demand different, quantitatively determined masses from the totality of social work,/ said Marx in the well-known letter to his friend, the German physician Dr Kugelmann. But what is more, in that same letter, the founder of scientific socialism stressed the general significance of the maintenance of proportionality for all economic formations. He went on to say that it is /"self-evident that the need for a division of social labor into certain proportions does not in any way ignore the determined form of social production; it can only vary the way in which it is manifested. Natural laws cannot in any way be ignored. What might be modified, in different historical situations, is simply the manner in which these laws are applied."/

It can be said, in sum, that the economic reports are the means, the principal method, for achieving this harmonious, appropriate proportionality, which involves an increasing optimization of the production process. These tools are ideally suited for analyzing the performance of the development and structures of the economy, and defining economic strategy--in short, for making visible and understandable the complex and multifaceted range of relations that are involved in the origin and uses of social production.

Within the reports system one of the more important ones is the Overall Social Product Report, because it plays an essential role in the formulation of short-, medium- and long-term plans.

Notes on Development of National Economic Reports

At the National Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the Economic Management and Planning System held in the middle of last year, one of the aspects of implementation of the SDPE that were studied included a critical evaluation of the development of National Economic Reports.

The paper that was read indicated that until 1965 the use of Overall Reports, particularly the Overall Social Product Report, was limited to an attempt at planning for a 4-year period; and that after that year, due to the discredited role of financial and accounting records and planning, the reports were limited to material categories. In some years the Overall Social Product Report was written simply as a summary, in a very incipient form.

It was not until the implementation of the SDPE and the reestablishment of the financial categories and the economic and accounting records, that the groundwork was laid for resuming work aimed at giving the National Economic Reports the

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proper role in planning. However, during those years limitations in terms of the data base, the financial categories and pricing made it impossible to develop this planning tool to its full potential. Nonetheless, the Overall Reports have played a "very active role" as an analytical element in the process of drawing up the 1981-1985 5-year plan and in the Economic and Social Development Strategy up to the year 2000.

"The true and full functioning of the financial mechanisms that are implemented as part of the SDPE, the stabilization and improvement of the statistical system, and the methodology for writing the reports, will allow these reports to play the proper role in the entire formulation process of the Plan in the coming years," concludes the above-mentioned paper.

Later the paper states that the Social Product Report, which was begun in 1977 with the limitations mentioned earlier, has already made it possible to establish the fundamental proportions of the national economy and to begin developing the basic norms, although these are still in the preliminary stage.

In the Main Report of the National Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the SDPE, emphasis was placed on the need to have an evaluation of macroeconomic relations by devising an "input-output" matrix. For this purpose, an interindustrial statistical analysis was announced, to be used in the preparation of the 1986-1990 5-year plan.

These aspirations have begun to come true, and in a much more ambitious form than was originally proposed. Work is already being done to write the Intersectoral Relations Report concerning our economy.

What Are the Characteristics of the Intersectoral Report, Who Helps Write It, and What Needs Will It Meet?

The "Draft of Economic and Social Guidelines for the 1981-1985 5-year Period" points out the need to /guarantee that the plans are balanced by means of the coordination of production plans with available resources. It states that standardization and the System of Planned Material Reports of the National Economy should play a decisive role in this coordination./ In another section, the draft stresses the goal of /attributing more importance to the role of Overall Social Product Reports and National Income Reports in the formulation of the various aspects of the Single Economic and Social Development Plan./

This Intersectoral Relations Report, then, is one of the key steps along the road to completing the tasks set forth for the present 5-year plan in the "Draft of Economic and Social Guidelines." It is also part of the "General Development Program of the Overall Economic Reports and Macroeconomic Statistics," which was submitted to the SDPE Implementation Committee early last year by the State Statistical Committee (CEE). The latter committee was responsible for drafting and orienting this program, in close cooperation with the State Finance Committee and with the active participation of the agencies of the different economic sectors and enterprises, the budget units, cooperatives, and other productive entities. Under Decree Number 79 of the Council of Ministers, the CEE was given the task of preparing and implementing the models and instructions required for the drafting of the Intersectoral Relations Reports (BRI), compiling and processing data and analyzing and publishing the results of the Report.

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At present, approximately 40 countries systematically prepare Intersectoral Relations Reports or Input-Output Charts, which makes for a better evaluation of the national economy. Essentially because it presents a break-down of the overall material situation, the BRI is practically an economic census.

In order to determine the nature of the BRI of the Cuban economy to be drawn up by the CEE, we interviewed Comrades Jose Antonio Lopez, director of National Economic Reports of that committee, and Rodolfo Mezquita, chief of the Intersectoral Reports Department.

In answer to our first question, Lopez indicated that the BRI will begin in 75 special branches. Of those branches, 63 are industrial, two are in construction, four in agriculture, one in forestry, one in communications, two in transportation, one in commerce and one in other productive activities. Approximately 800 products or groups of products will be covered.

The BRI provides a complete break-down of the relations in each of the different special branches. The format is that of a chess board, divided into four quadrants, in which the ranks represent the origin and the files represent the destination of each product (see chart).

The BRI will indicate, for example, the direct and total expenditures incurred to produce a ton of sugar.

Due to certain circumstances at present, the BRI will be drawn up only for the value expression and will not include the physical expression, although that aspect will be analyzed later.

"The Report will be made according to 1981 prices," said Lopez, "and this year the enterprises will gather the corresponding figures at the special cost centers, to be used as a basis for calculations and indices in the BRI. The documentation includes the Joint Resolution of the State Finance Committee and the CEE, which modifies the National Accounting System to help in the formulation of the BRI. Thus, simultaneous or parallel special records are avoided. A correlation between the National Basic Goods Classifier (CNMB) and the Economic Activities Classifier (CAE) was also drawn up for the purpose of grouping the Basic Goods by CAE subbranches. The same thing was done with the CAE and the Uniform Products Classifier (CUP) for the purpose of linking the products in the CUP with the pure economic subbranches where they are produced in accordance with the CAE. Finally, there is also the System of Control and Aid, which contributes to the formulation of the BRI, and has four models."

The results of the report will be presented in two basic stages. The first will include the functions of production by special branches and import coefficients, and should be available by the end of 1982 or early 1983. The second stage includes the complete charts presenting the production and distribution of the overall social product, that is, the factors known as the first, second and third quadrants of the BRI and the coefficients of direct and total expenditures, in specific figures, as well as the analyses of the results of the BRI. It should be finished by the end of 1983 or early 1984.

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At the close of the Fifth National Meeting of the CEE, Comrade Humberto Perez, alternate member of the Party Politburo and chairman of the Central Planning Board (JUCEPLAN), stressed the importance of having the BRI by those dates, for the following reasons:

--The following 5-year plan (1986-1990) will be in the early stages of formulation at that time.

--The process of drawing up the Development Strategy for the long term, up to the year 2000, will be coming to an end. Although that process will not benefit from the BRI, when it is over the report can be used for certain confirmations.

--By 1983 the Price Reform will already have been in effect for 2 years, and at that time it will be necessary to begin reviewing the interrelations of the economy that will have been created as a result of the new prices, with a view to making some modifications. The BRI will be a valuable tool in that process.

Responding to a question by the reporter concerning the importance of the BRI for the organization of technical material supplies, the director of National Economic Reports of the CEE stated that "the report will have information on approximately 800 products or groups of products, so it will be a useful working tool for the three entities that evaluate the nation's resources: the Central Planning Board, the State Technical Material Supply Committee and the Ministry of Domestic Trade. The report will furnish a wealth of information on the consumption of many products in the productive process. It is well known that many enterprises request more products than they actually need, and the result is an accumulation of stocks. Financial mechanisms play a pivotal role in the eradication of this harmful practice, and in the liquidation of the so-called idle inventories; however, the BRI will be a powerful instrument in the hands of these agencies, because its results will provide much more objective criteria concerning the coefficients of consumption. These results will also make possible the compilation of other data that will be useful to the agencies."

With regard to the BRI's importance for foreign trade, Jose Lopez stated that the reports will include what has come to be known as an import matrix. It will determine the weight of the imported goods within the productive structure of the country in the present year.

Imports will be divided into two groups: competitive and non-competitive. The former group will include products that are also produced in this country, such as cement; the second group covers those which are not produced domestically. Because at present enterprises do not yet have the means in every case to keep separate records of imported inputs, this work is being done in coordination with the foreign trade apparatus. The calculations will be made centrally, but it is hoped that by the time the next report is made the enterprises will be able to provide that information.

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) will use the BRI as one of the bases for measuring the comparative development of different countries, Lopez indicated. He added that the comparison is used for the establishment of preferential treatment and to help make calculations for plans to achieve more equal

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levels of economic development among the member countries of that internationalist socialist economic integration organization. The work will be much more fruitful with the availability of that tool.

"Cuba is participating in these efforts," stated the CEE official, "having participated in the comparisons of 1973, although only with regard to the rectified gross industrial product and the gross and final agricultural products. In 1978 our country, in addition to participating in these two indicators, also took part in the comparisons of the accumulation and consumption funds. We expect to participate fully in the nine indicators that are being compared among the CEMA member countries.

"Without the Intersectoral Relations Report, this would be very difficult, practically impossible. Every year there are new international applications for the BRI. Recently, for example, this report was used as the basis for a comparative study of the economies of the Peoples Republic of Hungary and the Republic of France.

"We are making progress in these experiences, and now our relations with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) should be reformed with the beginning of methodological comparative projects in the System of National Accounts and the System of National Economic Reports.

"Actually," concluded the director of National Economic Reports of the State Statistical Committee, "although we consider a BRI of 75 x 75 branches to be a rather modest aspiration, large countries such as Mexico highly value a matrix of 73 x 73. Moreover, Latin American experts with whom we have talked have expressed great interest in the fact that we are able to prepare our BRI using data that come directly from the enterprises, and not, as in their case, from indirect sources, which detracts from the reliability and precision of the work."

Once again the interview turned to the topic of the nature of the BRI that is being drawn up now. The chief of the Intersectoral Reports Department, Rodolfo Mezquita, pointed out an important feature: "In order to ensure a longer utilization period for the BRI, the product information that we request is managed according to the concept of a /Pure Branch./ What is that? Perhaps the uninformed reader will understand better if we explain it by means of an example. In our country a business activity is located in the economic activities classifier by a sector, a branch and a subbranch that correspond to the basic activity it is engaged in."

"However, regardless of whether an enterprise is classified in an /institutional/ branch or subbranch, it produces different goods. For example, let us examine the case of sugar refineries. They produce sugar, but they also produce electrical energy. Some of them manufacture spare parts, others make bagasse panels, others crossbeams; and they also invest their own resources. All the data provided in the accounting records of these products are compiled as the gross product of the branch of the sugar industry. But the BRI that we are going to make compiles this information for each of the original subbranches, so that the sugar industry will fall under sugar, spare parts will be under machinery manufacturing, and bagasse panels will fall under wood. Thus, here each of these products will come under a /pure subbranch./

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"In this manner, not only are we protecting the results of the report from the institutional changes that may take place in the coming years, ensuring their comparability, but we are also meeting the needs of long-term planning. Nonetheless, results will also be compiled in accordance with the concept of institutional classification, which will meet the needs of operative and short-term planning."

/"The success or failure of the Intersectoral Relations Report will depend on the enterprises."/ With these words, spoken by the chairman of the State Statistical Committee, Minister Fidel Vasco, the director of National Economic Reports of the CEE stressed the importance of having adequate control and proper consultation in the enterprises that will begin recording their activities at the special cost centers of the BRI.

"We do not deny that this will be an arduous and complex task for businesses, and that there are still some deficiencies that present potential threats to the quality of the information. We know there are problems with inventory control; these inventories must be improved, along with those of basic goods. There are problems with the recording of investments, the control of the basic goods that are transported or sold, and the management of price lists.

"However, we are certain that with proper data compilation, systematic control and timely consultation, all these and other possible difficulties can be overcome. Thus we will have an informative basis with a maximum of quality and objectivity that will allow this BRI to become an invaluable tool of economic analysis for our planners and those who prepare the reports, and for decision making in the development of our economy.

"Concerning the CEE, we are working hard and making progress in the definition of the mathematical model, the formulation of technical tasks, the analyses of the System and the implementation of the computer processing systems, which means that there is still a voluminous and complex task ahead of us."

This reporter recently attended a seminar given for those in charge of the BRI in the provincial delegations of the CEE. He was very impressed with the seriousness and depth of the analysis of each of the objectives set forth. This shows the farsighted approach that is being taken in this important task. There is no doubt that work will continue in this same combative spirit that will guarantee success.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSES NEW SALARY REFORMS

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 20 Feb 81 pp 28-31

[Article by Magda Martinez: "General Wage Reform Provided the Kick"; participants in roundtable: Oscar de la Portilla, member of the PCC municipal bureau and agriculture delegate in Isle of Youth; Alberto Reyes, department chief of work organization and wages at Ministry of Agriculture; Jose Perez Despaigne, assistant delegate for human resources of agriculture delegation in Isle of Youth; Gerardo Canete, secretary general of National Union of Agricultural and Forestry Workers in Isle of Youth; Anselmo Bigoa, director of Isle of Youth Livestock Enterprise; Jose Oliveras, director of Isle of Youth Citrus Enterprise; and Pablo Hernandez, forklift operator at Andre Voisin Packaging Plant in Isle of Youth]

[Text] In the 28 November 1980 edition of BOHEMIA, we published an article about the General Wage Reform in the agricultural and livestock sector.

That article focused on the Maximo Gomez Varied Crops Enterprise in Perico, Matanzas Province. The commitment by that enterprise to produce 1 million quintals of vegetables and produce in a small area--168 caballerias--had been announced. This became reality last 12 December as a salute to the Second Congress of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba]; it became a "millionaire" enterprise.

Let us return to the time of that article and recall one immediate consequence. The meeting for a future roundtable was organized there.

The fulfilled commitment and the roundtable pursued the defined objective of deepening and expanding debate on the wage reform in the agricultural and livestock branch.

The responsible entity selected the special municipality of Isle of Youth. The group went there and BOHEMIA started to investigate why that place was chosen for the meeting.

The Isle of Youth has eight enterprises involved in livestock, varied crops, citrus and forestry. They employ 4,570 workers who now receive the benefits of the wage reform.

Since the basic economic activity of the Isle of Youth is citrus production, it is almost obligatory to announce the fulfillment of its 1980 plan--more than 1 million

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quintals--in spite of weather adversities that sometimes darkened the horizon and made them "cover the seeds before they came up." However, production had the last word.

We are going to go into the problem of wages and take this occasion to penetrate the vast universe of agricultural economy.

Question: How is the General Wage Reform seen in the sector?

Alberto Reyes: Our ministry has 414 enterprises. These are classified by category based on the value of production, basic means, complexities and the number of workers. Classifications range from Group I to Group VII.

The reform has a different wage for leaders, based on those complexities and the classification of each enterprise.

We have devoted ourselves to work with the management system. The way to apply the General Wage Reform in the 414 enterprises of the Ministry of Agriculture has already been established.

Question: When did the application of the wage reform begin in Isle of Youth and how long did it take? Were there problems? Is it all done?

Jose P. Despaigne: We started to work on those things that limited application of the new measures. We analyzed the tasks to be undertaken like revision of norms, reduction of work force, use of the workday, tie of wages to norms and application of the system of payment for work results.

We evaluated our material possibilities as well as our technical resources and made a precise schedule. This was a task developed by the administration, jointly with the union. The latter played a very active role and contributed initiatives on how to solve the problems. We proposed to have 100 percent of our enterprises under the wage reform by November.

We must confess something. We did things in 4 or 6 months that we had not achieved in years. Actually, the problems loomed large. Nevertheless, the staff from the delegate to the district chiefs took on the task, supported by the technical personnel, and it was successful.

Question: We want comrade Pablo Hernandez to explain the following to us. Have you already started to receive the results of that application?

Pablo Hernandez: We started collecting under the new wage reform about 1-1/2 months ago. It was said that it would not be applied until the end of the year but it started in November. We are all happy at the packaging plant because many of the comrades received a very low wage--85 pesos--and now will earn 100 pesos. Anyone with a high wage does not benefit but those who have very low wages are very enthusiastic and are happier at work.

My work is a little complicated. During the grapefruit harvest, I have many activities and each one is tied. I have worked up to 12, 18 or 20 hours a day; it all depends on the pressures of the day.

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Question: But how do you work so much?

Pablo Hernandez: By working.

Question: What about the necessary rest to recover strength?

Pablo Hernandez: I rest some, at times 2 or 3 hours. This only happens during the harvest. Later, I go back to the normal rate of 8 hours; during this stage, I collect the basic wages.

Question: The reform affects the basic wage. How much do you receive?

Pablo Hernandez: My wage was 110.55 pesos and is now 121 pesos.

Jose P. Despaigne: Those who have fixed wages receive the increase more easily than those who are tied to a volume. You cannot speak of wage scales for those who work up to 20 hours a day.

There is a reason for the number of hours. Naturally, this is not normal. This year we have had the largest harvest in the history of Isle of Youth.

Also his activities are somewhat complex. It is not easy to get a forklift operator with the required efficiency. You could reasonably question why another operator has not been trained but this has not been done. That is the reason for the longer workday. The workday is long in general, practically 16 hours in the specific case of this comrade.

Question: This concerns us. We believe that the union must also be concerned for the man's health. He is our most valuable resource. Good use of the workday is one thing and excess is another.

Gerardo Canete: Two concrete situations forced us to extend the workday up to 20 hours. First, we could not begin the harvest in August because of the hurricane. It limited our time and forced us to increase the capacity of the packaging plant. The technical group studied the possibility of extending the workday to the existing two shifts.

Question: Canete, how does the union participate concretely in the application of the reform?

Canete: We compile the workers' concerns and respond to them. We went with the assistant delegate for human resources to the enterprises to discuss the measures to be taken to make application more feasible.

We followed these measures very closely. This was not because we did not trust the cadres but we wanted to follow the activity closely. We gave seminars in the union sections to the local leaders. This was with the measures in our hands. We asked the workers how it was being applied in their centers. They stated their opinions freely and we gave them information at their own job sites.

Question: What was the experience in applying the reform to the Isle of Youth Livestock Enterprise?

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Anselmo Bigoa: The enterprise was in a bad situation concerning the tie; we set the goal of having more than 85 percent tied by last July.

Much of our personnel has left us in recent years. Why? Low wages and hard work in the more rustic units. They took the opportunity to go into other spheres, earning more with less physical effort.

Question: In what way can all these economic measures contribute to the achievement of profitability in some agriculture enterprises?

Jose Oliveras: We have been fighting for the application of the tie and trying to get the worker a better wage. Something always conspired against it, even the fact that there are much less complex and better paid activities.

Question: Agricultural work is hard and is surrounded by adverse conditions. This means a larger exodus of the work force. Also the wages were not stimulating. Can all these economic incentive measures detain that exodus?

Jose Oliveras: I feel that it is a process. We cannot aspire to solve it in a day. We must pursue a dynamic process. It is the first step and, in the course of these next few years, must improve even more. As this is resolved, that situation will end.

Alberto Reyes: I would like to say something about the reform. The wage increase for manual agricultural workers ranges from 21 to 24 percent. That is the largest for all sectors. They also have the right to paid rest. That helps stabilize the agricultural work force and we are less pressured by the exodus.

The 8th and 9th Central Committee Plenum and Army Gen Raul Castro's public pronouncements mentioned only 3 or 4 hours of work a day in the sector and the urgent need to end this situation. Otherwise, the country would not develop. All this led us, jointly with the State Committee for Labor and the agricultural union, to update all the norms for manual activities and animal power and the fulfillment of those norms on the basis of a minimum of 8 hours of work. It is necessary to fulfill the norm but not like before. There was disagreement between the standardizer and the worker and the result was poor use of the workday.

The finished field system has been applied 100 percent to those tasks that can be measured by area. This will help increase the income of the workers. This is an indispensable requirement in the enterprises in order to be able to apply the reform.

Another of the requirements is revision of the work forces. There are places where the number in the indirect agricultural work force is above normal--by 20, 25 and even 30 percent--which means increased production costs. This is an indirect system affecting the profitability of the enterprise.

Question: Can the elimination of the district in some enterprises help this measure?

Alberto Reyes: It has been decided to eliminate one of the two intermediate scales in this activity--the district or field. The ministry follows the principle that the reform be applied to all workers but it is applied correctly.

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The low wages of the field chief and district chief have been mentioned; they are the most experienced. Resolution No. 576 was dictated regulating all the aspects of districts and fields according to the parameters. The wages compensate for the local responsibilities. They are even authorized to take courses in those entities that have already applied the wage reform.

When complaints reach us that the reform is not being applied, the workers must understand the following. As long as their enterprises do not reduce the percentage of indirect workers, they will not have the reform. If they do not have 100 percent under the finished field system, they will not have the reform. If the norms have not been updated, there will be no reform. They can pressure and make demands of their lagging administrations and unions.

Question: We would like to know what production and economic repercussions application of the reform, the finished field system and the bonus for final yield will have.

Jose P. Despaigne: Implementation of the reform requires greater management efficiency based on a greater increase in real work.

The reform establishes the tie between the wage and the norm in all activities. This is a direct route to productivity and management efficiency. The reform also establishes application of the finished field system. This is one of the best and most advantageous methods, not only for control as we see it but for man to reveal all his reserves of productivity. We often do not know how much there is. It also permits a more precise budget.

In spite of the fact that the reform is new, we have examples to offer. At the Livestock Enterprise, we have seen quantitative leaps. The mortality rate was over 10 percent; the experts were frightened by this figure. When we tied this enterprise, the rate went down to 6 percent in 2 months.

The reform has forced us to organize ourselves and analyze the problems in depth. At the same time, it has helped us find our weaknesses and the areas that affect improvement of these indicators most. The question is not only to increase production but to produce at a lower cost.

Alberto Reyes: The 1980 plan was to tie 51,055 workers during the year; we will have 105,800 being paid under the system of payment for yield. That means almost 200 percent fulfillment. The reform gave us a kick. It was the mechanism that helped solve the questions, problems that we did not know how to solve before.

Comrade Oscar de la Portilla, member of the party municipal bureau and agriculture delegate, suddenly came in. Because of work, he had not been able to be with us at the beginning of the roundtable. Nevertheless, he was interested in participating at least for a little while.

Without much preamble, we gave him a summary of the discussion so far.

Question: At this point, we would like to hear your opinions and learn about the cooperation of the agriculture delegation in the application of the reform.

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Oscar de la Portilla: In April, we analyzed the results of the first quarter of the year with all the enterprises. We immediately understood that we had many technical problems in agriculture and problems in the use of resources. There were also serious problems with the tie--that is, payment for yield.

The task was to make a plan to tie everything feasible because of the implications for increased productivity and savings of the wage fund. All the norms were reviewed and the work forces refined. It was all done with another objective but it prepared us to take the plunge and apply the reform. The results are on paper. We will increase commercial production by more than 40 percent. We will pay 250,000 pesos less and we will increase commercial production by 5 million pesos. We have saved about 1,000 workers. We will export more than 5,000 tons of citrus, more than any other year. We have given the nation 1.2 million pesos in wage funds.

Nevertheless, this is work that we cannot drop because it will stop. We have talked with the union and the delegation. It is a defect of the cadres that sometimes we do one thing and it falls to us from then on. We are going to try to keep that from happening and continue with systematic checks so that it is really a success in Isle of Youth.

Question: We talked about that this morning. It is not only a question of applying it but maintaining it and improving it.

Reyes, what is your present situation and when do you think it will end? What problems have you had and how did you handle them?

Alberto Reyes: The situation on 2 December was 163 enterprises under the reform; now 163,600 workers benefit from it. That is 39 percent of our enterprises and 43 percent of the workers in the sector. The year 1980 has the following result: 334 enterprises under the reform--81 percent--with 319,525 workers.

Question: You proposed to end with 80 percent and, in practice, you are short 13. If, according to you, it was a great effort to achieve 67 percent, why did you plan on reaching 80 percent?

Alberto Reyes: That figure of 81 percent was a goal we set but we knew that it was high. It was to promote total effort from the enterprises to achieve the objective. At the end of the year, we had 100 varied cultivation enterprises under the reform; there are only 7 left. There were 127 livestock and 53 forestry enterprises under the reform by December.

Our commitment to the agricultural union is to have 100 percent under the system by April as a salute to its third congress. The rest of the ministry will finish in the first half of 1981.

The special municipality Isle of Youth finished in November. Pinar del Rio, Camaguey and Granma have done good work. Havana has all its enterprises presented to the committee and they will be discussed soon.

Question: In this case, what province is the furthest behind?

Alberto Reyes: Las Tunas. Its basic problem is the percentage of workers tied; it does not reach the proposed level.

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Question: At any time did some administrations fail to complete the process so the enterprise could not be presented to the committee?

Alberto Reyes: Yes. We would not be fair if we did not state this. That happened in some places. There was no undertaking and the task was left to the work organization committee. They later became aware of the significance of the task and then everyone worked for it.

Question: Do you feel that the process continues at the same rate, without slowing up?

Alberto Reyes: Yes. At this time, the rate is increasing; its advance can be seen week by week.

Oscar de la Portilla: In spite of the problems, the question was to begin to tie the workers. This has provided tremendous help in all senses. This does not mean just savings in wages but savings in resources and everything. If there is no awareness of this problem, the reform is not applied.

Alberto Reyes: The organizational modality of tying the worker to an area has had positive results. We will emphasize it in 1981. It can already be stated that the agricultural worker has been looking for a work site. When application of the wage reform ends in the sector, the management system will return to work on its consolidation, checking fulfillment and responsibilities when the established indicators go down.

Question: Since the roundtable is coming to an end, we want to think the comrades who helped us hold it. The objective was to show the progress of the wage reform in agriculture, its effects and initial difficulties so that we could help a little in this challenge. We thank the agriculture delegation and the Isle of Youth agricultural union for the facilities offered.

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COUNTRY SECTION

CUBA

PALLETIZATION SEEN AS WAY TO IMPROVE PORT ACTIVITIES

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Feb 81 p 33

[Article by Gregorio Hernandez: "It Is Necessary to Revitalize Palletization!"]

[Text] Palletization is a technology for handling merchandise that has been widely used in our ports since 1971. It has shown unquestionable benefits since the first half of 1973.

Port pallets are wooden platforms on which up to 2 tons of sacks or crates are placed, forming a unit that is handled with forklifts or cranes, thus freeing the worker from exhausting work. It measures about 1,800 mm x 1,200 mm; this is standardized in Cuba. There is also the smaller industrial or trade pallet that is 1,200 mm x 1,000 mm. This can only be manipulated by forklifts while the port pallet can also be hoisted by cranes or ship equipment.

This transfers the work of man to a machine. However, the pallet also represents a savings of 0.38 pesos per ton handled in the internal cycle of the port alone. Shipment to the receiving warehouse would show even more savings.

Studies done in different port units showed that the use of the pallet produces an increase of 0.8 tons per man/shift, reduces the use of men for loading trucks and increases loading tonnage from 58.9 to 72.2 metric tons per work shift. The number of personnel in a conventional brigade--33 men--has been reduced to 18 in a palletization brigade and the time to load a truck decreases with palletized merchandise from 52 to 12 minutes.

This columnist reviewed the information on palletization given at the First National Forum on Use of Fleets and Ports in 1975. He found that "the results achieved in the port of Havana by delivery to the domestic economy of palletized merchandise compared to the cost of that operation done conventionally indicates that 51,596 pallet/trips were used for 78,000 tons in 1974 with a savings of 873 brigade/shifts and more than 20,000 pesos."

We can add that the successes achieved through palletization in Havana port spread its use to Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos, Nuevitas, Matanzas, Cardenas, Mariel, Antilla, Jucaro and the Batabano-Nueva Gerona traffic.

There was also a complementary study to increase awareness of the economic results of packaging in the ports, especially savings obtained from palletization from the

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ship hold to unpalletization on the truck. Without even extending the chain to the domestic economy and without considering its influence on the reduction of the demurrage of the ships, decrease in shortages and delays of merchandise, etc., the benefits of palletization are high.

One detail that we want to point out is that the wood and screws used to make the pallets are in short supply. The sight in some ports of messy or broken pallets or pallets used for other things is unfortunate. Another negative aspect is the failure of the users in the domestic economy to return the pallets sent to their units. Also this important means of transportation does not always receive the care that it requires in supervision, conservation and operation.

Not only have these situations occurred but there have been different problems with the application of this system. In the first place, deliveries of pallets to the ports decreased from 1975 to 1979 so there practically was a reverse phenomenon--that is, unpalletization of the ports. In 1980, however, deliveries have increased and the prospects for 1981 are magnificent. This might permit palletization of imported merchandise to the receiving warehouse to be resumed with broad advantages for all participants of the port-transportation-domestic economy chain.

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CUBA

GRANMA PROVINCE SUGAR MILLS REPORT JANUARY YIELD FIGURES

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 27 Feb 81 pp 36-37

[Article by Andres Rodriguez: "Going Up?"]

[Text] A dialogue with party provincial bureau member Roberto Pirez and MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry] delegate Jose Antonio Verdecia on grinding and yield, the particular case of the Jose Nemesio Figueredo mill, sugar yield planning, rewards and reproofs in the province's 10-day inspections.

We told Pirez and Verdecia that our first impression was of the tremendous grinding rate the province has maintained to date, accompanied by a greater industrial efficiency than last harvest. This is obvious if we consider those two indices, for example, at the end of the second 10-day period in January, which we print below for our readers.

	<u>10-day Period</u> <u>1981 Harvest</u>	<u>10-day Period</u> <u>1980 Harvest</u>
Cane ground (arrobas)	2,511,000	2,160,000
Absolute Recovery (percentages)	85.43	84.85

We went on to say that we were struck by the fact that in that 10-day period, the province's mills ground a daily average of 396,000 more arrobas of sugarcane than the established plan. This is equal to the daily potential capacity of Granma's second mill, Jose Nemesio Figueredo.

However, we got another impression and it was of the low sugar yield they have accumulated up to now amid such a dizzying grinding rate. Are you caught up in a grinding frenzy?

Verdecia said: "I imagine that in your travels you noticed how the cane estimates have gone up, that is, our availability of raw material has increased. As for your question, we are grinding fast and steadily but without any frenzy that would sacrifice yield. I can tell you that when we make up the final estimate in February, we will be in a position to outline our path better so as not to finish too late or too early, which means losing sugar."

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"The main thing is to fulfill the plan for the production of sugar, which is what our country exports," Pirez then interjected. "The February estimate, as Verdecia pointed out, will define our grinding rate to take maximum advantage of the optimum yield curve and not lose an ounce of sugar.

"But we do have--let's get back to the point--a special concern with Jose Nemesio Figueredo in Rio Cauto. It has almost 50 million arrobas of cane. The excessive wetness of their fields forced them to harvest 15 days late and the sugar yield went down a whole digit below the plan. Moreover, to top it all off, their cane is in impermeable soil."

Very familiar with the Rio Cauto area, having spent time there heading the party's municipal committee, Verdecia spoke up again:

"The concern is logical. Of course, Jose Nemesio Figueredo is the only mill in the province that could go into May. But as we have taken into account precisely that real possibility, which is very risky to be sure, alternatives have been devised to face up to it. First of all, from the beginning of the harvest there is a commitment of 7 million arrobas from Bartolome Maso, which finishes in April. Likewise, we foresee other cane commitments with Arquimedes Colina and Ranulfo Leyva. These mills also finish early and are in a position to absorb such commitments. All this should contribute to Jose Nemesio Figueredo not extending its harvest past 10 May.

"In regard to the decline in sugar yield which that mill is currently showing," the MINAZ delegate in Granma concluded, "the historic trend is for that index to increase and surpass the plan in February and March."

Historical trend. That trend is precisely the method used for planning the sugar yield, a method which, by the way, is very controversial, some calling it bureaucratic and out of touch with reality. What do Pirez and Verdecia think about it?

The party provincial bureau member spoke out:

"The current method takes into account the average of the last five harvests and thus is purely statistical. So I feel that it is not correct because it does not include the improvements introduced in that time or help stimulate the men's efficient efforts, in agriculture or industry either."

Could it then, in certain cases, be planning based on setbacks?

"Exactly."

And how can a scientific method be devised for planning this decisive gauge of the sugar harvest?

"I don't believe the problem is simple," said Pirez, "but I can tell you about the Matanzas experiment in 1969 and 1970, when that planning was analyzed with the factors involved in the harvest and took into account the agroindustrial

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characteristics and concrete conditions of the sugar harvest in each place. That is, the makeup of the stock and varieties to be milled, the scheduling of the cutting, the best technology introduced in the industry and other elements. The problem, I repeat, is complex but we should seek a method that allows scientific planning."

"What did you think of the 10-day inspections?" Verdecia asked us because of our visit to the harvest analysis in the province scheduled for the second 10-day period in January.

We answered that three things caught our attention. One, the emulative nature of the checkups; second, the manner of investigating the supposed mysteries that still surround sugar production; and third, the combination of rewards and reproofs that is used: red flags for those who fulfill the plan and white flags for those who do not. In regard to this last point, what were you after when you initiated this?

"First of all," Pirez noted, "you realized that the reproofs are not mean, offensive or excessive. They are white flags with the slogan: More work with less efficiency equals less results."

"Our experience has shown us," Verdecia then continued, "that those white flags have become a signal of shortcomings and a spur to overcome them and to things with better results. The conclusion is that the laggards tend to improve."

Finally, I had a point for Pirez and Verdecia put forth for our readers' perusal in the box on this page, titled "An Odd Detail."

An Odd Detail

We asked Roberto Pirez (on the left in the photo) and Jose Antonio Verdecia (on the right) what they thought of this detail as we handed them a paper with the following information:

<u>Mill</u>	<u>Sugar Yield</u> <u>(10-day Period)</u>					
	<u>1st</u>	<u>2d</u>	<u>3d</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>
F. Castro Ceruto	8.24	8.55	9.49	10.19	10.46	12.22
Roberto Ramirez	8.44	8.56	9.04	10.26	10.76	11.59

The leaders of Granma Province looked at each other after reading it carefully. According to the data, the jump in yield made by Francisco Castro Ceruto between the fifth and sixth 10-day periods of the harvest was really explosive. It was .93 higher than Roberto Ramirez' yield.

But the odd part is that Castro Ceruto achieved the increase despite the fact that during those six periods it was grinding the following combination of varieties:

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Barbados 4362	63 percent (diseased with mildew)
Mayari 5465	19 percent (late ripening)
Jaronu 60-5	
and Cuba 8751	17 percent

At the same time the Roberto Ramirez mill was grinding only 47 percent diseased Barbados 4362 and 48 percent magnificent Jaronu 60-5 and Cuba 8751.

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